



Friday/Dydd Gwener 23.2.2024

Reminders

Please find important information and dates for the year ahead on our website.
 18th March – Exhibition afternoon – times tbc. Week beginning 11th March – Parents evenings: 19th March 9.30am
 - Little Haven Lenten Liturgy: 7th March – World Book Day: 8th March – Friends of the School Easter BingO

St David's Day Celebrations

On Friday March 1st, children are invited to dress up in Welsh National Costume or something red/white or green. Due to the upper school attending the St David's Day Parade, our school Eisteddfod celebrations will take place during the week of 4th March, this will be another opportunity for the children to dress up in their Welsh National Costume or something red/white or green.

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March. Further details to follow from Department of Communication.

Little Haven Lenten Liturgy

Mrs Joseph would like to invite the parents and carers of pupils in Dosbarth Little Haven to their class liturgy on Tuesday 19th March at 9.10pm

Non Uniform Day - Monday 26th February

Instead of monetary donations, the Friends are asking for donations for the Easter Bingo which will be taking place on the 8th March in the school hall, doors open at 6pm ready for eyes down at 6.30pm They would be very grateful for:

- small tins of ham, jam or chutney.
- Easter eggs, small and large.
- small bottles of wine.
- tubes of smarties or buttons.
- new and small cuddly toys.
- Small packets of tea and jars of coffee.

Exhibition event

We are looking forward to another Mary Immaculate exhibition event on the 18th March in the afternoon. Please mark the date in your diaries, with further timings to follow.

Lenten Charity

The Faith Ambassadors and Department of Spiritual Life members delivered an assembly to our whole school today, explaining how we will look out for others this Lent by raising money for the charity, 'Mission Together'. A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission: to share God's love with the world. Through Mission Together, children all around the world join together and help one another, no matter how far away they are. All children have been given a red collection box to take home with them today and we please ask you to donate what you can. The money we collect in these boxes will provide children living in poverty with food, education, shelter and care. Diolch yn fawr.



School Crossing Patrol

Please be aware that there is no road crossing patrol along Augustine Way, until further notice. Please ensure that you remind your child of important road safety messages.

First Holy Communion

Preparations for First Holy Communion will begin this term. If your child is in Year 3 or above, and you would like them to be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, please complete the form below.

<https://forms.gle/M2ZNPVg3g1mhs3h58>



Sneak peak into our learning for next week!

Dosbarth Amroth

Next week we will be celebrating 'Wythnos Cymraeg' with lots of Welsh themed activities.

Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week we will continue with our Dydd Dewi Sant activities, including making Welsh cakes! We will create another video to send to our friends in China.

Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, our class will be having a PE workshop with Pembrokeshire College on Monday afternoon. The children really enjoy these sessions as they are fun and always have a variety of skill building activities.

Dosbarth Druidston

Next week we will be undertaking a variety of activities linked to Dydd Gwyl Dewi, St David's Day and Welsh Culture!

Week beginning 26 February 2024 - check diary

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hywel Dda Baby massage group 10am • Pembrokeshire College PE workshop for Dosbarth Newgale
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Morris in to deliver music lessons • Dosbarth Whitesands on Darwin Science trip to Colby Woodland Gardens
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions • After school girls' football club with Swansea City Primary Stars (only booked pupils) • Y3-6 Multi-sports (only booked pupils) – cancelled • Y1 Nature Nurturers (only booked pupils) • Y5 and 6 Healthy Minds (only booked pupils)
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatterbooks Club Y3-4 (only booked pupils) • Expressive Arts Club Y2 (only booked pupils) • Netball Y5-6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St David's Day Parade – for upper school. Further details to follow

Attentive to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

Caught Moments

To receive a 'caught moment' at Mary Immaculate School is very special. This means you have been caught living out our virtues. Each week we will be taking time to celebrate how are children are living out our virtues – and rewarding them with a hot-chocolate treat!



Miss Edwards caught George Trew being generous and wise by offering to help others with their learning.	Miss Guymer caught Finley Pearce being generous by being helpful ensuring our digital devices were charged.
Miss Guymer caught Seren Harwood-Littlehales, Evie James and Taylor Pemberthy being compassionate by helping around the classroom and being kind to others.	Mrs Joseph caught Lucy Field being compassionate and loving by playing games with a younger child who had no one to play with.
Mrs Kerrison caught Alexa Jenkins being generous with her time by helping our nursery learners.	Mrs Sims caught Taylor Frampton being compassionate and attentive towards her classmates and cheering her friends up when they are unhappy!
Jackie, our cook, caught Lilyana, Emily and Orla being generous and attentive is helping in the dinner hall.	

Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate, and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

Eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

Learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future

Curious about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, now and in the future.

Seren yr wythnos

Well done to all our learners who have been chosen as our merit winners. What stars we have this week!

Dosbarth Amroth

Hugo Dyer for always giving 100% in all that he does not only in school but at home as well in particular with his sounds. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Druidston

Esmee-May John for her enthusiasm during oral activities and for using her Voice 21 strategies confidently! Dal ati!

Dosbarth Little Haven

Daisy Scourfield for fantastic reading. Daisy is now reading with expression and is a pleasure to listen to. Bendigedig!

Dosbarth Whitesands

Marni Fox for trying her best with every task and being enthusiastic with her learning. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Newgale

Isla Bevans for always giving 100% in all areas of learning and identifying her own next steps after writing a diary entry. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Abereiddy

Deon Joltin for giving 100% with his artwork and being a team player in PE. Da iawn!

Class attendance - Spring 2024

Each week, the class with the best attendance wins our attendance trophy! Llongyfarchiadau i Ddosbarth Whitesands!

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Dosbarth Amroth	88.70%	71.60%	68.20%	85.90%	94.40%
Dosbarth Little Haven	83.10%	75.00%	83.50%	92.70%	88.30%
Dosbarth Newgale	91.50%	88.30%	87.80%	94.80%	93.70%
Dosbarth Druidston	86.10%	82.40%	91.30%	95.10%	91.00%
Dosbarth Whitesands	92.60%	76.70%	84.40%	89.60%	97.30%
Dosbarth Abereiddy	98.00%	93.80%	92.70%	85.50%	87.90%

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the example of Saint David, who lived a simple life and helped others.

Help me to consider my choices and live more simply in order to make a big difference to others.

Like David, help me do little things with great love.

Amen

Saint David, pray for us.



Friendly February 2024

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

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Important School information – January 2024

Getting to know us

You may be new to Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School, or perhaps have not yet met all our staff team. Over the coming days, we hope you'll get to know your child/ren's class teachers and support staff. Members of our staff team are out on the playground daily during drop-off and pick-up, so please do pop to chat with us should you require any assistance, information, or support. We have an open-door policy, meaning that we endeavour to always be available to speak with you to discuss any questions, queries, or concerns.

Ensuring we know you and your child

It is vitally important that we hold the most up to date information on you and your child so that we can keep your child safe and contact you in the case of an emergency. It is important that we know how your child is getting home from school (including permission to walk home for learners in Y4, 5 and 6), so please make sure you have let your child's class teacher know via dojo if they are allowed to walk home unaccompanied. Please contact the school office if there are any changes to collection arrangements for your child or any other change to details that you have previously supplied us with.

Staying in touch

Communication between home and school is vitally important to ensure your child can excel and thrive at school. You can contact your child's class teacher directly and receive school and class-based updates and information through the Class dojo app, which can be downloaded for free onto your smartphone (app store) or accessed through their website. Class dojo allows you to see the rewards your child receives in real time and offers other great features.

- **School and Class stories** will be used to publish news, events, and important notices - all of which can be translated via the app.
- There is also a **school calendar** which will send you notifications of up-coming events in school.
- Most importantly you will still be able to stay in direct contact with your child's class teacher via **Class dojo messaging**.

Please remember that teachers may not have the opportunity to check messages during the day, as they are teaching, and will not routinely check messages after 4pm. If your message is urgent, please call the school office. Mrs Evans, Mrs Priestley and I have access to class messaging, but do not monitor these inboxes, so please contact us through the school office in the usual way if you need to speak with us. Should you not receive a personal invitation, please use the following link to join.

<https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=school&schoolID=4f0e09053b7c029066dc955c>

Whole school correspondence and notifications will come through the 'parentmail' email system, so please share with us any changes to your email address, so that you do not miss important information.

Asymmetric Week

The asymmetric week, implemented in September 2023 following a consultation, has been created for staff to focus on training to further drive standards and achievement forward. On a Friday, the school day finishes at 12.20pm. Learners can be collected at 12.20pm with a take-away style lunch – please contact Mrs Evans at the school office if you wish to collect your child at this time. All learners can remain in school to eat lunch on-site and should be collected between 12.50pm - 1.00pm, at their normal exit points, please. We do have a provision for learners on site after lunch if parents need this. Please contact the school office to book a space for your child in our Friday afternoon supervision, which finishes at 3pm. Spaces must be booked in advance.

School timings

School session times are below. Please arrive promptly as doors and gates will close at the start of the school day.

Year groups	Monday-Tuesday AM		Fri PM	
	Gates Open	School Day	School Day (learners stay for lunch)	Pick-up
Amroth (Reception learners), and Little Haven	8.30am	8.50am-3.15pm	8.50am-12.20pm	12.50pm
Newgale, Druidston, Whitesands and Abereddy	8.30am	8.45am-3.20pm	8.45am-12.20pm	12.50pm
Amroth (Nursery AM)	8.30am	8.50am-11.50am	8.50am-11.50am	
Amroth (Nursery PM)	12.45pm-3.15pm (10h entitlement over 4 days)			

Healthy Schools

As part of the healthy school agenda, we encourage all pupils to eat a healthy snack of fruit/vegetables at breaktime (please, no nuts or nut-based products to protect vulnerable learners). All learners are encouraged to bring a bottle of water into school, which they can access throughout the day. As usual, please remember to label any items from home.

Universal Free School Meals – Now free for all learners in Full-Time Nursery to Year 6!

All full-time learners in Full-Time Nursery to Year 6 will receive a free school meal each day, saving nearly £15 per week (per child), through the Universal Free School Meals policy of Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru's Co-operation Agreement. Parents do not need to register or complete an application form. Pupils will order all school meals as usual during morning registration. Checking what is for lunch is easy! You can now ask Alexa what is on the Primary School menu with the [Pembrokeshire Council Alexa Skill](#), or you can access the menu for the year ahead using the following link: [Primary Schools Menu - Pembrokeshire County Council](#). We've included some answers to frequently asked questions at the bottom of this letter.

Support for low-income families

Families on low incomes will not be affected by the introduction of universal free school meals. You will still be able to receive free school meals and other essentials, such as help with uniform, sports kit and stationery (PDG Access Grant). This grant not only entitles you to funding to support your child, but also enables the school to access funding to further support them whilst in Mary Immaculate.

If your child is starting school or your circumstances have changed and you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, you must still apply for Free School Meals (eFSM) to access other funding, such as for school essentials. If you are a pupil or parent that receives one of the following benefits, please contact Mrs Evans, at the school office, who can support you in applying:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA). Contribution Based Jobseekers Allowance (CBJSA) does not qualify
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credits only, with an annual household Income of under £16,190 *
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (IR)
- Universal Credit

Please note that if you are in receipt of Working Tax Credits in addition to any of these benefits you will not be eligible for free meals, even if your household income is below £16,190.

School Uniform

We strongly encourage all learners to wear school uniform daily. We believe that this supports their readiness for learning and builds a sense of pride and belonging to our school.

Autumn and Spring term Uniform	Summer Term Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy jumper or Navy Cardigan• White shirt• School tie• Grey trousers• Navy pinafore, Navy Skirt or Navy Trousers• White socks or Navy tights• Black/Navy shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White polo shirt• Grey trousers/shorts• Navy/white gingham dresses (no white collars please)• Navy skirt/trousers• Black/Navy shoes
Physical Education	Navy shorts, white polo shirt and trainers.

School ties and badges are sold through the school office.

There is no need to purchase uniform with our school logo, and many local retailers sell affordable items without the school logo. Should you wish to purchase a badge or school tie, these are available from our school office at a cost of £4 each. As always, please make sure all items are clearly labelled.

Attendance

Being in school every day is essential to ensure that learners make the most possible progress, develop friendships and make important memories. When your child walks into school every morning, you can be assured they will be supported personally, emotionally and academically. We're here to provide them with the social and educational development opportunities to shape their futures and become the best versions of themselves. Please make every effort to ensure your child attends school daily and arrives promptly.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available to all learners from 8am, offering food, drink and supervision until the start of the school day. Doors close at 8.15am so that we can ensure that all learners attending have the opportunity to eat breakfast. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place for your child to attend.

Extra-curricular clubs and dates for the term ahead

Extra curricular clubs are booked termly.

If you have any questions or require any support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We look forward to working with you to support our wonderful Mary Immaculate children!

Cofion cynnes,

Mrs L Prevel, Acting Executive Headteacher

Universal free school meals FAQs

Will I need to fill in an application form to get Universal Primary Free School Meals for my child(ren)?

Parents and carers will not need to fill in an application form. Children will be asked whether they would like to order a meal each day during morning registration.

I am on a low income and my child(ren) currently receive Free School Meals (eFSM) anyway - how will the introduction of the new Universal Primary Free School Meals scheme affect me?

Families on low incomes will **not** be affected by the introduction of Universal Primary Free School Meals. You'll still be able to receive free school meals and other school essentials, such as help with school uniform, sports kit, and stationery.

I have a child or another child starting school in September. Will they automatically get free school meals?

If your child is starting full time nursery, reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in September, they will **automatically** qualify for the new Universal Primary Free School Meals scheme. However, if you as a parent or guardian are in receipt of a qualifying benefit you must still apply for Free School Meals (eFSM) in order to access other funding, such as School Essentials (PDG Access).

Can schools cater for my child's special dietary requirements?

Yes, all special dietary requirements can be catered for upon request. Please contact PCC's School Liaison Officer via email elinor.phlip@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or telephone 01437 776168 to discuss your child's special dietary needs.

My child's cashless catering account is in credit. How do I get a refund?

Please email cashless.catering@pembrokeshire.gov.uk to request a refund or alternatively you can request that the credit be transferred to a sibling's account.